

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 8, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18 were rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 9-10, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,441,401 issued to Akira Yamaguro et al. ("Yamaguro") in view of European Patent Application Publication No. 537,968 by Yujiro Oshima et al. ("Oshima"), U.S. Patent No. 6,653,005 issued to Nazim Muradov ("Muradov") and the admitted prior art of Hornung et al. ("Hornung"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the amount of hydrogen introduced into the exhaust is a function of both the amount of NO and the amount of NO₂. As explained on page 8, lines 16 – 30, a first amount of hydrogen is appropriate for conversion of NO. A different amount of hydrogen is appropriate for conversion of NO₂. Typical diesel exhaust contains both types of NO_x. For best performance, the amount of hydrogen should be optimized according to the ratio of NO to NO₂.

The Examiner has wrongly attributed teachings to Yamaguro. Specifically, Yamaguro does not teach or suggest optimizing the amount of hydrogen according to the ratio of NO to NO₂. There is no teaching or suggestion that the amounts of NO and NO₂ be separately determined.

For these reasons, Claims 1 and 10 are allowable as are their dependent claims.

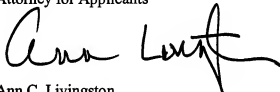
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims.

Applicants enclose a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time and authorized the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2634.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Livingston", written in a cursive style.

Ann C. Livingston
Reg. No. 32,479

Date: August 4, 2006

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